UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1992/73
14 February 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 11 (a)

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 10 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit herewith "Basic Data and Information on the Humanitarian Problems of Displaced Persons and Other Persons Afflicted by the Armed Conflicts in Yugoslavia and Supplement No. 1" prepared by the Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health, Veterans' Affairs and Social Policy of Yugoslavia.

I would like to ask you to make the necessary arrangements to have this text issued as an official document of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 11 (a).

(Signed) Naste Calovski
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.92-10665/4217B

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR LABOUR, HEALTH, VETERANS 'AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL POLICY

BASIC DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER PERSONS AFFLICTED BY THE ARMED CONFLICTS IN YUGOSLAVIA

Belgrade, December 1991

Population displacement and indeed the threat to the very survival of persons who have remained living in the crisis areas are the most drastic manifestations of the severe political, economic and legal crisis and the armed conflicts besetting Yugoslavia. The humanitarian problems attending these developments,their ever increasing magnitude and duration are affecting virtually the entire country.Proceeding from these facts and bearing in mind their long-term and unfathomable consequences,the Federal Executive Council has from the very outset been pointing out that the basic,even though not the only precondition for arresting these developments is a durable and absolute cessation of armed conflicts and that the security,human rights and freedoms of displaced persons and their safe return to their homes must be ensured; throughout this period the Federal Executive Council has been taking measures to secure the necessary humanitarian aid from all available domestic sources and channel it to all areas in need of such aid.

Given the protracted duration of the crisis and armed conflicts, the extent and nature of the required humanitarian aid is becoming increasingly beyond the realistic response capacity of federal,republican and local sources and of the population which has so far shouldered an enormous burden in extending aid. Therefore Yugoslavia highly appreciates the contribution of all countries and humanitarian organizations which have or will join in this effort,as in fact Yugoslavia itself has done whenever such relief was needed by other countries.

The data presented in this survey,which are subject to change,are to serve as a guide for further international humanitarian aid operations so that,with full respect for the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, that aid might respond as efficiently as possible to specific needs and be provided in such a way as to lay the foundations for international assistance and cooperation in the stage of normalization of life and be supportive of long-term development in all areas from which the population is being displaced or in crisis- and armed conflict-stricken areas where the population has remained.

Number, Location and Structure of Displaced Persons and Other Afflicted Persons

1. According to the latest survey of December 13,1991,on the basis of the records maintained by the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, the number of displaced persons in Yugoslavia was about 430 thousand.Of this number 142 thousand were in Serbia(central Serbia 85 thousand, Vojvodina 56 thousand and Kosovo 1 thousand), in Bosnia and Herzegovina around 88 thousand, in Montenegro about 7 thousand (including refugees from Albania) and in Macedonia about 2 thousand,while until October 31,1991,inclusive, since which date no data has been submitted, the number of displaced persons in Croatia amounted to some 170 thousands and in Slovenia around 22 thousand.

The total number of displaced persons also includes about 20 thousand active military personnel and civilians working with the Yugoslav People' s Army and members of their families who have fled from Slovenia and Croatia.

In addition, in the crisis areas of Croatia (Eastern and Western Slavonia, Lika, Banija, Kordun and the Dubrovnik region) there still live a considerable number of persons,estimated at around 250-300 thousand , in a very precarious position due to war operations,the severance of communication links and security risks.

There are some 20 thousand persons in the Lika,Banija and Kordun areas displaced from other parts of Croatia , and the greater area of the Psunj and Papuk mountains in Western Slavonia has been the scene of a massive exodus of some 16-20 thousand refugees for a long time whose evacuation is under way.

It is also estimated that around 100 thousand displaced persons have not been registered and that at least another 100 thousand have fled abroad.

The total number of internally displaced persons is estimated at over half a million.

2. From the aspect of the humanitarian aid required the age and sex distribution of the displaced persons is highly unfavourable as they are predominantly children,women and old and infirm persons (children and youth account for 75 % , cca. 50 % are female).About 12 thousand children up to a year old and about 1.5 thousand pregnant women are among the number registered.

3. 85 % of persons displaced in areas outside Croatia are accommodated with relatives,friends or in other households and the remaining 15 % are in

collective accommodation facilities (hostels, hotels, and similar), while in Croatia 50 % of the displaced persons are in collective accommodation facilities and 50 % in households.

Makeshift accommodation or rather none at all has been available for most of the mass refugee groups in the areas of the mountains Psunj and Papuk in Western Slavonija - they have been in the open for the most part with only a small number sheltered in tents and auxiliary buildings.

Extent and Nature of the Necessary Humanitarian Aid

4. The estimate of the total expenditure required to cover the urgent humanitarian needs of displaced persons is based on the estimated minimum required for bare necessities which ,with the present number of displaced persons, would amount to cca. 1 billion dinars monthly (cca. US $ 45 million at the official rate of exchange).This, however, does not include additional expenses to cover the corresponding needs of persons who have remained in the imperilled areas.The estimate also does not include the expenses of health care, education,social benefits and other.

For a proper perception of the extent and gravity of the problem of securing humanitarian and social aid to the needy population it should be borne in mind that until the crisis and the armed conflicts broke out the level of satisfaction of personal and public consumption in Yugoslavia was relatively high and stable.Yugoslavia provided full national food security, a full or high coverage of the population with various forms of

health care, a high coverage of children and young people by the education system, a stable and comprehensive social benefits scheme.The possibilities for maintaining the standards achieved have been already exhausted to a large extent and are deteriorating with the general trend of negative economic performance. Production,trade and transport have been additionally disrupted due to the armed conflicts and this also hinders or prevents altogether the procurement of supplies (of food,medicaments and other products) and the transfer of personal emoluments and shifts the burden of covering these and other humanitarian needs of the displaced persons to the areas to which they move,and, in particular, to the families which give them refuge.

5. Among the consequences of the armed conflicts and physical devastation is an extremely precarious hygienic and epidemiological situation in parts of the afflicted areas which may well give rise to epidemics of serious infectious diseases.This has still not occurred thanks to the fact that prior to the outbreak of hostilities the share of infectious diseases in the pathology of the Yugoslav population was reduced to the minimum.An important role in preventing epidemics from breaking out has been played by the national health service, which was very well trained and equipped for the prevention and control of epidemics of infectious diseases.Naturally, this is no guarantee that no epidemics will break out of some, in particular intestinal parasitic diseases, in the coming period.

However, the incidence of chronic non-contagious large-scale diseases, which even before the outbreak of armed conflicts were dominant in the pathology of the Yugoslav population, is rapidly on the rise and shall lead in the period ahead to a considerable deterioration of the health status of the population throughout the country, in particular of the population in the crisis areas and of displaced persons.A further growth of mortality and morbidity is to be expected with certainty,primarily in terms of accidents, cardiovascular diseases, mental diseases and others.Due to the sharp decline of the standard of living and the displacement of the population changes are to be expected in its socio-medical pathology, i.e. the increased -morbidity of the elderly, of children, women workers performing difficult physical work, as well as the increased incidence of tuberculosis,respiratory and other diseases of a viral etiology.

Given the previous high level of maternal and child health care,their health condition is not expected to deteriorate,except for population in the crisis areas and displaced persons.

Already now the rehabilitation of the wounded and injured is a formidable problem,and in view of the severity of the consequences of these injuries a larger number of severely disabled persons is to be expected.

The armed conflicts in the country over several months have also resulted in the destruction of a number of health care facilities,primarily

hospitals (buildings and equipment), and in the disruption of the distribution of health personnel.

Types of Assistance Required

6. The most urgently needed humanitarian aid is in:

- food, footwear and basic hygienic requisites in quantities proportionate to the total number of displaced persons and persons living in the crisis areas;

- water and power supply for the population in the crisis areas, provision of accommodation, blankets;

7. Pregnant women, infants, children and youth require special assistance in connection with:

- accommodation and preparation for childbirth;

- food, clothing, vaccines and hygienic supplies for infants and children of other ages up to 14;

- school supplies and accommodation for children from 7 to 14 years of age and secondary school pupils and university students as well as food in collective facilities;

- assistance to hospitals, centres and families with disabled children;

8. In the area of health care the needs include:

- various kinds of medicaments, vaccines and medical supplies;

- blood products and other infusion materials;

- maternal and child mental health care;

- care for the elderly and infirm;

- rehabilitation of disabled persons:

- environmental rehabilitation measures.

9. The above survey indicates only the most pressing problems and the urgent needs of displaced persons and of the population living in the imperilled areas.The question remains outstanding of how shall the long-term humanitarian, social, economic and other consequences of the devastation of war be eliminated and the return of the population to the areas from which they have moved out secured, housing buildings, health and welfare facilities, school establishments, industrial and other enterprises reconstructed, etc. It is quite obvious that given the general state of the Yugoslav economy and particularly the additional adverse effects of the economic sanctions,even after the armed conflicts end, Yugoslavia will be unable to deal with these formidable problems alone.It is hence necessary already now to

initiate action for the provision and direct use of broader and long-term forms of international assistance and cooperation.

Indigenous Sources of Aid

10. The Federal Executive Council earmarked out of the Budget of the Federation on three separate occasions, a total amount of 650 million dinars of aid (or about 30 million US dollars according to the official rate of exchange) distributed among the republics and provinces on the basis of available data on the number of displaced persons. The distribution of this relief has been difficult because of the disruption of the payments system.

The Red Cross of Yugoslavia has procured in medicaments, food, clothing and footwear exceeding 100 million dinars in value (or about 5 million US dollars according to the official exchange rate).

An important role in the relief collecting campaign has been played by the republics and provinces, the communes, work organizations and republican and provincial Red Cross organizations in collaboration with communal organizations, as well as by Yugoslav citizens abroad and religious organizations.

It is not possible to fully monitor the volume and destination of all the relief as part of it is channelled into the republics and provinces and by them to recipients without reporting back to the federal agencies or federal level organizations (e.g.the Red Cross of Yugoslavia).

The greatest burden however has so far been carried by the households which have been hosting the displaced persons.

International Aid

11. Initially, international aid was extended sponatenously through the Red Cross of Yugoslavia and Red Cross organizations in the republics and provinces but it slowly developed into a broad-based international capaign under the auspices of the United Nations.

The federal authorities however do not have complete insight into this international aid either, as this review will show, because this relief like the one coming from indigenous sources is partly channelled directly into the various regions.

11.1. Through the mediation of ICRC, the Yugoslav Red Cross and Red Cross organizations in the republics and provinces, aid had been sent in by mid November by national Red Cross organizations in 19 countries i.e.: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Check and Slovak Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA. The relief from some of these countries was extended also through various humanitarian and religious organizations.

11.2. The Commission of the European Communities joined in the humanitarian relief campaign with an amount of 5 MECU contributed by member countries.

11.3. Thanks to the mediation of the ICRC in Geneva, and under its sponsorship, representatives of the Federal Executive Council, the Federal Secretariat for National Defence and the republics of Croatia and Serbia signed at the end of November a Memorandum of Agreement pledging themselves to comply with and ensure respect of international humanitarian law as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and Protocols.

12.1. Pursuant to a conclusion of the Federal Executive Council, an appeal for aid was launched through the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees,which met with the positive response of the UN Secretary General, urging the international community to extend humanitarian aid following which at the beginning of November an exploratory mission of the UNHCR, UNICEF and ICRC was dispatched to Yugoslavia. On the basis of the report of this mission a decision was taken to launch a campaign for raising about 25 million US dollars to fund the joint programme of UNHCR (about 16.5 million), UNICEF (about 5.1 million) and WHO (about 2.7 million US dollars).

12.2. According to the latest information , the Commission and the EEC member countries envisage the establishment of a plan of European action for humanitarian assistance to the Yugoslav population with financing at the community level of 8 MECU (out of which 2 MECU has been envisaged for aid to Yugoslav citizens in neighbouring countries). With the participation of member countries, 14.6 MECU have so far been collected for this plan.

12.3. In addition to the aid already provided, the International Committee of the Red Cross has launched an additional appeal for aid to Yugoslavia to the total of about 8 million Swiss francs.

13. The Federal Executive Council has addressed itself to the FAO and the WFP with the request that they examine the possibility of joining in the programme of humanitarian assistance to Yugoslavia.

Some Problems in the Implementation of International Aid Programmes

14. The contents and nature of the overall aid required to tackle the problems caused by the crisis and armed conflicts with time become increasingly complex and are transformed from emergency material assistance to more sustained sources and channels for long-term assistance and cooperation with a view to mitigating the effects of destruction and normalizing all walks of life in the regions affected by the armed conflicts. Another issue to tackle which assistance and cooperation will increasingly be required is the ensuring of preconditions for full protection of human rights on the basis of relevant legislation and international instruments both with respect to the civilian population and to the actual participants in the armed conflicts.

To judge by past experience many countries and international organizations both regional and

global ones, would be willing to extend assistance to the afflicted population in Yugoslavia.

However, when it comes to the influx and distribution of relief, sustained and full cooperation between the donors and the competent federal authorities and organizations at the federal level is essential (primarily with the Red Cross of Yugoslavia) so as to avoid unneveness in distribution and even the concentration of aid in one area at the expense of others which would reduce the significance and meaningfulness of the efforts invested by the international community. This is particularly important considering the possibility of other international agencies joining in the future in this relief and cooperation effort.

Such a coordination of efforts would also facilitate and increase the efficiency of the mutual cooperation among various donors of international aid themselves.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR LABOUR, HEALTH, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL POLICY

BASIC DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER PERSONS AFFLICTED BY THE ARMED CONFLICTS IN YUGOSLAVIA

- Supplement No. 1 -

Belgrade, January 1992

In December 1991 the Federal Executive Council - the Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health, Veterans' Affairs and Social Policy - published a brochure entitled "Basic data and information on the humanitarian problems of displaced persons and other persons afflicted by the armed conflicts in Yugoslavia".

The brochure, along with a general presentation of current problems and ways of resolving them, included a number of data which need to be updated from time to time. As this Supplement illustrates, the updates will be provided periodically with the publishing of annexes to the basic text of the brochure.

A change in the number of displaced persons

According to the latest survey the number of internally displaced persons in Yugoslavia currently totals 600 thousand. One should add to this number approximately 100 thousands persons abroad and mostly in the European countries.

The recorded data of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia indicate that on January 22, 1992 the number of displaced persons in Serbia was cca 157.7 thousand (Central Serbia 95 thousand, Vojvodina 61.3 thousand, Kosovo 1.3 thousand, and Metohija), Bosnia and Herzegovina 87,4 thousand, Montenegro 7 thousand (including refugees from Albania) and in Macedonia cca 2.4 thousand.

According to the data from the same source on October 31, 1991 since which date no data has been submitted, the number of displaced persons in Croatia amounted to around 170 thousand and in Slovenia to about 22 thousand. The representatives of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Belgrade indicate that according to their sources, on December 31, 1991, the number of displaced persons in Croatia was 311 thousand, and in Slovenia 23 thousand.

A number of displaced persons (about 35 thousand) are in the crisis areas of Croatia (in Eastern and Western Slavonia, Lika, Banija, Kordun and the Dubrovnik area) together with from 250 to 300 thousand local population who are in an extremely grave and complex position.

Necessary humanitarian aid

The protracted nature of displacement and the increase in the number of displaced persons makes the needs in the already defined areas of urgent humanitarian aid relevant also in the coming period. These areas include accommodation, clothing, footwear, sanitary supplies, medical supplies and medical care, fuel supply, etc.

Urgent humanitarian relief is essential not only to the displaced pesons but also to the population in the crisis areas. The Yugoslav Government's 1991 relief aid programme has covered this section of the population extending through the mediation of the Red Cross aid in food, medicines and other essentials, and will continue doing so also in 1992 with the funds to be allocated out of the Budget of the Federation.However, the delivery of aid has become increasingly difficult due to security risks, the disruption of payments operations, the severence of communication links, etc.

The Government of Yugoslavia has raised the issue of assistance to this section of the population with the representatives of the UN agencies involved in the humanitarian aid programme subsequent to a joint and direct insight into and an assessment of the scope and nature of the assistance needed.

The Yugoslav Government is also taking preliminary action to, once conditions are created, proceed to a comprehensive and systematic identification of the needs related to other longer-term forms of

cooperation and assistance geared to the normalization of living and working conditions for the displaced persons and their return to the regions of origin. In its efforts, the Government will need and appreciate international technical and professional as well as financial assistance.

Current data on sources of assistance
a) Indigenous sources

Up to now a broad range of indigenous sources have been resorted to ranging from the households receiving displaced persons to the budget of the federation and the republics providing aid to the displaced persons and other persons afflicted by the armed conflicts. Din 6.5 billion or about USD 60 million according to the new official rate of exchange is to be allocated as part of the funds for extending humanitarian aid out of the 1992 Budget of the Federation.

b) International sources

Owing to increased communications with the donors of international aid and in particular with the representatives of the UNHCR and the ICRC, there is a better insight into the sources, channels and amounts of international humanitarian aid at the moment. Towards the end of December 1991 this aid was valued at about USD 50 million, inclusive of the first announcement of contributions by particular donors to implement the UN appeal which combines the activities of the UNHCR, UNICEF and the WHO.

The approved and implemented aid was of dual

nature and included direct relief to the end-users and financing of attending needs associated with the relief as well as the activities by particular specialized international humanitarian organizations like Medecins sans frontieres, Hopitals sans frontiers, Pharmacists without frontiers, and the like.

Despite increased communications with the donors of international aid and the organisations through which it is distributed, a need has arisen to identify even more favourable arrangements to accommodate for a number of pending issues, to the mutual benefit, and through an even closer cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities in Yugoslavia. One of the most pressing issues among those mentioned remains the monitoring and evaluation of the effects of relief aid by end users to which it is directly supplied.

In this connection, the competent agency of the Federal Government has,in collaboration primarily with the representatives of the UNHCR and the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, proceeded to develop an information system designed to continuously and without delay monitor the sources, flows and feedback of data on the effects of the relief aid provided. In further developing the system foreign technical assistance will be invaluable.

Appointing commissions on humanitarian affairs and displaced persons

On January 15, 1992 the Federal Executive Council decided that a former interministerial working

group, which has from the very outset of the process of displacement of the population, been charged with monitoring the situation, suggesting measures and coordinating activities aimed at providing shelter and refuge to the displaced persons, should develop into a Commission on Humanitarian Affairs and Displaced Persons made up of representatives of a number of competent federal agencies.

The mandate given to the Commission by the Government includes harmonization of the positions of federal administration agencies and coordination - internally and in consultation with international entities - of actions to implement the humanitarian aid policies on the displaced population and the population still living in the crisis areas and the creation of conditions for their return and a lasting normalization of the life of the local population in the crisis areas.

Representatives of the relevant republican and provincial administrative agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations as well as researchers or scientific institutions may also take part in the Commission.

Cooperation with UN representatives

The federal agencies and organisations, as well as the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, maintain regular direct and as of late since the establihsment of the Commission on humanitarian affairs and displaced persons regular indirect contacts with the representatives of the UNHCR and other UN agencies, as well as the ICRC. These contacts are

mutually assessed as valuable and have already resulted in some concrete arrangements of relevance for the greatest possible rationalization of the efforts being invested in the country and abroad and aimed at resolving the humanitarian problems faced by displaced persons. They include an understanding on the further development of an information system, joint visits to the crisis areas, simplification of import procedures, customs clearance of foreign aid, etc.

- - - - -